

Dear Authorized Representative and Food Service Director:

NEW: Healthier US School Challenge Training 2013 - HUSSC 101 Webinar on February 5th -

Is your school interested in becoming a HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) School?

Are you working towards the 6-cents certification? The new HUSSC criteria include a requirement of 6-cents certification. Once your school is certified you are on the right track to become a HealthierUS School Challenge school! The HUSSC award brings national recognition for your school's wellness efforts and showcases the great work your district is doing. **Team Nutrition is holding a HUSSC 101 Webinar on February 5th to provide a general overview of the new HUSSC criteria.** In addition, four regional computer lab trainings will be held in the spring for schools ready to submit a HUSSC application. *See the attached flyer for registration information.*

NEW: - January 31, 2013 - Public Districts ONLY

REMINDER: Public Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are required by Iowa Administrative Code to release to the Department of Human Services Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (*hawk-i*/Medicaid Program) household information for the students eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits who have expressed interest in learning about *hawk-i*. Non-public LEAs are encouraged but not required to release household information. Attached you will find the Excel spreadsheet and instructions on how and where to submit the list. Please use this spreadsheet for supplying names. *hawk-i* list is due **January 31, 2013**. If you have further questions, please contact Diana Weber at Diana.weber@iowa.gov.

NEW: SP 19 – 2013 Paid Lunch Equity: School Year (SY) 2013-2014 Calculations -

SFAs must annually review their paid lunch revenue to assure compliance with the paid lunch equity requirement. When the average paid lunch price is less than the difference between the free and paid Federal reimbursement rates, the SFA must determine how they will meet the requirement—by increasing their average paid lunch price or providing funds from non-Federal sources.

Therefore, for SY 2013-2014, SFAs which, on average, charged less than **\$2.59** for paid lunches in SY 2012-2013 are required to adjust their average price or provide additional non-Federal funds to the non-profit school food service account. The amount of the per meal increase will be calculated using 2 percent plus 2.93 percent (SY 2012-13 inflation rate), or **4.93** percent.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will issue an updated version of the PLE tool soon which will include the new reimbursement and inflation rates and account for, as applicable, crediting any amount SFAs increased paid lunch prices above the required level. The PLE tool will also address any shortfall in meeting the PLE requirement and make the appropriate adjustments based on the information that SFAs input from their records. SFAs should also refer to memo SP 39-2011(Revised) for more guidance on making PLE calculations.

NEW: - February 15th Food Service Director's Meeting

West Des Moines is the place for the Director's Meeting co-sponsored by the Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services and SNAI. This year the presentations include NFSMI with Meeting Children's Special Food & Nutrition Needs, Leadership Development, and the Bureau Update. Please see the attached registration form.

Thanks!

NEW: Adult Meal Price for FY14

The expressed purpose of the USDA Child Nutrition Programs is to safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation's children, meals served to adults are neither eligible under legislation and regulations for Federal cash reimbursement, nor do they earn donated food assistance for the School Food Authority(SFA). For program year 2013-2014, the adult charge should be at least the amount of reimbursement received for a "free" lunch and the per-meal rate of USDA Foods. Since FY14 free meal reimbursement rate and USDA Food per-meal rate are not released until July, SFAs will base FY14 adult meal price on FY13 rates. **For FY14, the adult meal price must be at least \$3.10 (\$2.86 free reimbursement rate plus .24 USDA Food per-meal rate). FY14 SFA applications will not be approved until the adult meal price is at least \$3.10. Please take the necessary action now to ensure compliance.**

NEW: Summer Continuing Education

Each year, the Department of Education teams with Iowa State University Extension to provide continuing education to those involved in child nutrition programs in Iowa School Districts. For the year 2013, eight workshops are planned, to be held at the Scheman Continuing Education Center in Ames. The first training will be held June 13, and the final training begins July 30. More information and registration can be found at: <http://www.cpm.iastate.edu/schoolfoods>. Please register early, and if you anticipate new employees will be joining your school district in the fall, hold a registration spot for them under an administrator's name.

NEW: NFSMI Training and Resources

Well-trained staff are essential to successful school nutrition programs. The National Food Service Management Institute (NFSMI) is part of the School of Applied Science at The University of Mississippi, and is the only federally funded national center dedicated to applied research, education and training, and technical assistance for child nutrition programs. Although most schools will not be able to take advantage of training sessions in Mississippi, please note the other options at the bottom of this announcement.

Online classes are available at any time convenient for your staff. There are also many NFSMI materials that can be printed and used for in-service training at your school.

Sincerely,
Patti Harding, Administrative Consultant
Iowa Department of Education
Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services